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HUAC, New Left Tangle

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After two days of talk between the New Left and the House Un-American Activities Committee, neither understood what the other was saying and both were getting a little edgy.

The committee is seeking evidence of subversion in the demonstrations that produced the bloody encounter with police at the Democratic Convention in Chicago.

Tom Hayden, a leading organizer of the demonstrations, talked freely for five hours yesterday about his beliefs and activities and insisted throughout that his group wanted no violence. But when committee counsel Frank Conley pressed Hayden to explain again why he could condone violence in the ghettos under some circumstances but was opposed to it in Chicago, Hayden said he had explained that enough.

Criticizes Committee

"No witness in the history of your silly committee has given a fuller statement of his philosophy or allowed himself to be subjected to such insane questioning without taking offense," said Hayden.

Conley then said his last question was whether Hayden didn't think young people "should take a second look at you" before following his banner. Hayden rose muttered an obscenity and prepared to leave.

Rep. Albert Watson (R-S.C.) said he wouldn't tolerate such language and talked of having Hayden arrested.

"Will you tolerate indecent questions by your own counsel?" retorted Hayden.

Rep. Richard Ichord (D-Mo.) calmed things down at several points, saying they were getting along pretty well, considering.

Hayden told the committee that it might continue to exist officially but that it had lost its authority in the country. "That's why no one is picketing these hearings," he said. "The job's already been done against HUAC."

Refers to Militants

Hayden also told the committee that "if you think you've seen militants at these hearings, just wait until the 7 and 8-year-olds come along in the next few years."

Hayden was followed by Rennie Davis, also a leader at Chicago and like Hayden, 28, well educated and well spoken and an intense believer that America should be a better place for all people to live.

Watson declared that Davis spoke for only a tiny portion of American youth. Davis replied that if Watson really believed that he had better watch out because he might have trouble with his own children.